

13. A method of preparing a[n antigen-presenting] dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;
- (b) either (i) exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen-specific peptide or (ii) transfecting the dendritic cells with a gene encoding an antigen-specific peptide; and,
- (c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen[; and]
- (d) purifying the antigen-expressing dendritic cells].

Please add the following new claims:

20. A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering Flt3-L in an amount sufficient to enhance the patient's immune response to such disease.
21. A method comprising the step of administering to a patient in need thereof an amount of Flt3-L sufficient to generate an increase in the patient's number of dendritic cells.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Date: November 23, 1999

Signed: Camilla C. Edwards
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